

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-26 are pending in the present application. Claims 8-26 are maintained by the present supplemental amendment.

In the outstanding Office Communication, the reply filed February 23, 2004, was not fully responsible to the prior Office Action because the amendments to the abstract do not include a replacement paragraph marked up, and no indication was presented whether the newly added claims are readable upon the previously elected species.

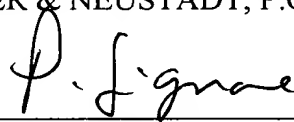
Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephonic discussion extended to Applicants' representative on April 26, 2004. During the discussion Examiner Ciric recommended filing a supplemental amendment that (i) shows the differences between the original abstract and the amended abstract, and (ii) states that newly added claims are readable upon the previously elected species.

In view of this recommendation, the amendments to the abstract are clearly marked up relative to the original abstract (the abstract is amended to conform to independent Claim 1 without adding new matter), and Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 8-26, added in the previously filed amendment, are readable upon the previously elected species, namely, second species, Figure 5. Claims 8 and 18 are generic claims.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Philippe J. C. Signore
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 43,922

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

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